



Stepping Out With Adobe InDesign

InDesign 1

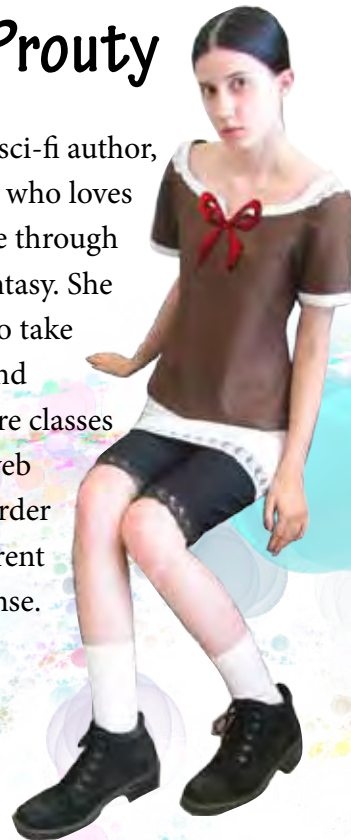
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About the Author

Janet Prouty

Janet Prouty is a sci-fi author, cosplaying otaku who loves to live out her life through creativity and fantasy. She hopes someday to take enough Adobe and computer software classes to specialize in web page design, in order to defeat her current lack of design sense.



Brochure Features

- » Master page elements
- » Layers
- » Threaded text
- » Paragraph formatting
- » Character formatting
- » Bleeds
- » Multiple columns
- » Importing graphics
- » Gradient/new gradient
- » Typing on a path
- » Rotating text
- » Text wrapping
- » Grouping objects
- » Swatches made from a graphic
- » Transparency
- » Paragraph rule
- » Named colors
- » Cropping
- » Modified clipping path with pen tool
- » Guides

What is InDesign?



Adobe InDesign is a software program used for desktop publishing, or publications of text and graphics. Produced by Adobe Systems, this complex and professional program enables users to accomplish detailed graphic designs with layout assisting tools and effects. InDesign has taken over popularity as one of the best desktop publishing applications on the market.

What can you make?

InDesign's open workflow enables users to create a wide variety of publication types, from media viewed on a computer screen to full-fledged books. The types of works possible from the world of print include posters, flyers, brochures, magazines, newspapers and books. On the web, e-magazines, brochures and more can be constructed with InDesign's layout features.

A sample workflow

A typical session in InDesign workflow starts out with customizing the document for the type of intended media. A user can select her intent for web or for print, and page size and guide options. Once the document opens, it's time to decide what elements to stamp on a master page. Page numbers, guides, and header and footer graphics are common elements here.

On the main pages, graphics and text are imported from external files. By using the command *file > place*, or dragging and dropping from Adobe Bridge, graphics or text can be arranged on the page.

With the design content in place, there are many output possibilities. To send a preview to a client it is a good idea to export to a smallest file size PDF. If the document is intended for print, a press quality PDF can be generated. Before sending to a print shop it is a good idea to proof the colors. InDesign documents can also be printed directly to an ink-jet or laser printer. For web viewing, there are sideshow settings that will translate into an exported PDF. To send an entire project that can be edited on another computer, *file > package* will create a full package of the InDesign document, imported graphics and fonts.

My favorite feature

My favorite feature in InDesign would have to be the ease at which pages can be modified after creating a new document. For example, even if an original new document has three pages of the same size, after its creation new dimensions can be chosen from an icon in the pages panel for each page. InDesign's flexibility is helpful in case I change my mind about layout after creating a new document.

This is tricky!

Perhaps the trickiest thing to master in InDesign is typography, primarily because of the extent of features available to tweak characters into just the right shape and position. Besides the numerous character formatting features, InDesign offers a hefty control panel of paragraph formats to get paragraph styles adjusted just the way you want them.

New to InDesign?

For those new to InDesign, the first thing that needs to be realized is that InDesign's purpose is to lay out already styled graphics. For specialized graphic manipulation, programs such as Photoshop or Illustrator should be used. Elements used in your InDesign publications are mostly going to be imported from outer sources.

The first thing a beginner should set up when opening InDesign is some of the default settings. Before opening a document, change the default features you want to stick with each time the program opens. For instance, working with rulers in inches rather than picas, viewing graphics in high quality, working with the Application Frame turned on, and using the Advanced workspace rather than Essentials to get a better view of what is possible.

Here's my story

When I first started this class I wasn't sure what to expect. I had limited experience playing with Photoshop, but InDesign's interface stumped me when I tried to compare the two programs. As I gained more basic knowledge, I started getting equally more comfortable and overwhelmed by all the features available. By the end of the semester I got the feeling that memorizing InDesign commands are a lot like learning kanji; if you don't use it, you'll lose it. Professor Cyndi Reese is right in saying that InDesign is not really intuitive, and therefore having an expert guide me through the learning process is a truly good thing. My prospects with InDesign are still in the haze of an uncertain future, but I can say with certainty that every lesson was worth it. No matter where my career goes from here, the principles of text and graphic layout picked up from *Stepping Out With InDesign* will guide my creativity in both Adobe and web design programs.

